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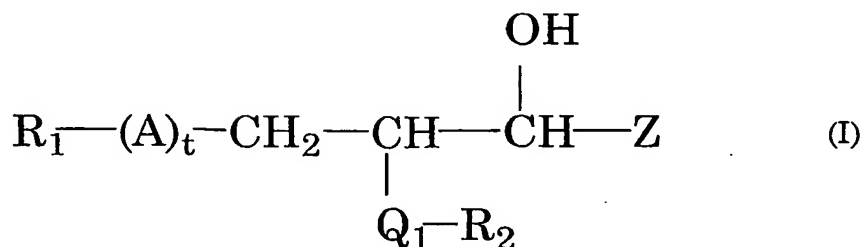
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(54) Title: THE USE OF SPHINGOLIPIDS IN THE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF TYPE 2 DIABETES MELLITUS,  
INSULIN RESISTANCE AND METABOLIC SYNDROME



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the use of sphingolipids for the preparation of a food item, a food supplement and/or a medicament for the treatment and/or prevention of insulin resistance, diabetes mellitus type 2 and/or Metabolic Syndrome. In particular, the invention relates to the use of a sphingolipid with the general formula (I): wherein Z is R<sub>3</sub> or -CH(OH)-R<sub>3</sub>; A is sulphate, sulphonate, phosphate, phosphonate or -C(O)O-; R<sub>1</sub> is H, hydroxyl, alditol, aldose, an alcohol, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl or amino acid; R<sub>2</sub> is H or unsaturated or saturated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>30</sub>) alkyl chain; R<sub>3</sub> is unsaturated or saturated (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>30</sub>) alkyl chain; Q<sub>1</sub> is a primary amine group (-NH<sub>2</sub>), secondary amine group (-NH-) or an amide group (-NH-CO-); and t is 0 or 1, or a precursor, a derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention and/or treatment of a disorder selected from the group consisting of insulin resistance, diabetes type 2 and Metabolic Syndrome.

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